

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 3, and 9, and add new Claim 10 as indicated below.

The status of all pending claims is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire comprising four grooves in a circumferential direction, wherein
when the pneumatic tire is mounted on a regular rim in accordance with standards, and has a regular internal pressure, and 100% load is applied to the pneumatic tire, ground-contact pressure is distributed so that
a ratio of center-rib-edge ground-contact pressure to center-rib-middle ground-contact pressure is from 0.80 to 1.00,
a ratio of second-rib-inner-edge ground-contact pressure to second-rib-middle ground-contact pressure is from 0.80 to 1.00,
a ratio of second-rib-outer-edge ground-contact pressure to second-rib-middle ground-contact pressure is from 0.75 to 0.95,
a ratio of shoulder-rib-inner-edge ground-contact pressure to shoulder-rib-middle ground-contact pressure is from 0.80 to 0.95, and
a ratio of shoulder-rib-outer-edge ground-contact pressure to shoulder-rib-middle ground-contact pressure is from 0.85 to 1.00, wherein ground-contact pressure distribution in each of center-rib, second-rib, and shoulder-rib gradually decreases from the middle of the rib toward the edges.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire comprising four grooves that include two inner grooves and two outer grooves along a width of the pneumatic tire, wherein

an inner groove angle, which is an angle between a wall of an inner groove and a plane that extends from an open end of the inner groove toward a base of the inner groove, is from 10 degrees to less than 20 degrees,

an outer groove angle, which is an angle between a wall of an outer groove and a plane that extends from an open end of the outer groove toward a base of the outer groove, is from -10 degrees to less than 20 degrees, and

when the pneumatic tire is mounted on a regular rim in accordance with standards, and has a regular internal pressure, and 100% load is applied to the pneumatic tire, ground contact pressure is distributed so that

a ratio of center-rib-edge ground-contact pressure to center-rib-middle ground-contact pressure is from 0.80 to 1.00,

a ratio of second-rib-inner-edge ground-contact pressure to second-rib-middle ground-contact pressure is from 0.80 to 1.00,

a ratio of second-rib-outer-edge ground-contact pressure to second-rib-middle ground-contact pressure is from 0.75 to 0.95,

a ratio of shoulder-rib-inner-edge ground-contact pressure to shoulder-rib-middle ground-contact pressure is from 0.80 to 0.95, and

a ratio of shoulder-rib-outer-edge ground-contact pressure to shoulder-rib-middle ground-contact pressure is from 0.85 to 1.00, wherein ground-contact pressure distribution in each of center-rib, second-rib, and shoulder-rib gradually decreases from the middle of the rib toward the edges.

4. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 3, wherein all four of said inner groove angles are equal to each other, and all four of said outer groove angles are equal to each other.

5. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 3, wherein each of said inner groove angles is a substantially constant angle.

6. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 3, wherein each of said outer groove angles is a substantially constant angle.

7. (Withdrawn) The pneumatic tire according to claim 3, wherein each of said inner groove angles and each of said outer groove angles is a substantially constant angle.

8. (Withdrawn) A pneumatic tire comprising four grooves that include two inner grooves and two outer grooves along a width of the pneumatic tire, with the inner grooves being positioned between the outer grooves, wherein

an inner groove angle, which is an angle between a wall of an inner groove and a plane that extends from an open end of the inner groove toward a base of the inner groove, is approximately 10 degrees, and

a outer groove angle, which is an angle between a wall of an outer groove and a plane that extends from an open end of the outer groove toward a base of the outer groove, is approximately 10 degrees.

9. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire comprising four grooves that include two inner grooves and two outer grooves along a width of the pneumatic tire, with the inner grooves being positioned between the outer grooves, wherein

an inner groove angle, which is an angle between a wall of an inner groove and a plane that extends from an open end of the inner groove to a base of the inner groove, is from 10 degrees to less than 20 degrees, where positive angle values signify inclination away from a groove opening; an outer groove angle, which is an angle between a wall of an outer groove and a plane that extends from an open end of the outer groove to a base of the outer groove, is from -10 degrees to less than 20 degrees, where positive angle values signify inclination away from a groove opening and negative angle values signify inclination toward a groove opening;

and further wherein each of the outer groove angles is less than each of the inner groove angles;

when the pneumatic tire is mounted on a regular rim in accordance with standards, and has a regular internal pressure, and 100% load is applied to the pneumatic tire, ground contact pressure is distributed so that

a ratio of center-rib-edge ground-contact pressure to center-rib-middle ground-contact pressure is from 0.80 to 1.00,

a ratio of second-rib-inner-edge ground-contact pressure to second-rib-middle ground-contact pressure is from 0.80 to 1.00,

a ratio of second-rib-outer-edge ground-contact pressure to second-rib-middle ground-contact pressure is from 0.75 to 0.95,

a ratio of shoulder-rib-inner-edge ground-contact pressure to shoulder-rib-middle ground-contact pressure is from 0.80 to 0.95, and

a ratio of shoulder-rib-outer-edge ground-contact pressure to shoulder-rib-middle ground-contact pressure is from 0.85 to 1.00, wherein ground-contact pressure distribution in each of center-rib, second-rib, and shoulder-rib gradually decreases from the middle of the rib toward the edges.

10. (New) A pneumatic tire comprising four grooves that include two inner grooves and two outer grooves along a width of the pneumatic tire, with the inner grooves being positioned between the outer grooves, wherein

an inner groove angle, which is an angle between a wall of an inner groove and a plane that extends from an open end of the inner groove to a base of the inner groove, is from 10 degrees to less than 20 degrees, where positive angle values signify inclination away from a groove opening; an outer groove angle, which is an angle between a wall of an outer groove and a plane that extends from an open end of the outer groove to a base of the outer groove, is from greater than 0 degrees to less than 20 degrees, where positive angle values signify inclination away from a groove opening and negative angle values signify inclination toward a groove opening;

and further wherein each of the outer groove angles is less than each of the inner groove angles;

when the pneumatic tire is mounted on a regular rim in accordance with standards, and has a regular internal pressure, and 100% load is applied to the pneumatic tire, ground contact pressure is distributed so that

a ratio of center-rib-edge ground-contact pressure to center-rib-middle ground-contact pressure is from 0.80 to 1.00,

a ratio of second-rib-inner-edge ground-contact pressure to second-rib-middle ground-contact pressure is from 0.80 to 1.00,

a ratio of second-rib-outer-edge ground-contact pressure to second-rib-middle ground-contact pressure is from 0.75 to 0.95,

a ratio of shoulder-rib-inner-edge ground-contact pressure to shoulder-rib-middle ground-contact pressure is from 0.80 to 0.95, and

a ratio of shoulder-rib-outer-edge ground-contact pressure to shoulder-rib-middle ground-contact pressure is from 0.85 to 1.00, wherein ground-contact pressure distribution in each of center-rib, second-rib, and shoulder-rib gradually decreases from the middle of the rib toward the edges.